

This is an official

CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network
September 29, 2006, 19:30 EDT (7:30 PM EDT)

Update: Foodborne *Botulism* toxin Type A associated with bottled carrot juice – Florida and Georgia

Two events of foodborne botulism have been caused by the same commercial brand of carrot juice. Three residents of Georgia consumed commercially produced carrot juice from the same bottle. All sought medical care on September 8, 2006, and all three were intubated. Clinical specimens from all three case-patients yielded *botulinum* toxin type A. High levels of *botulinum* toxin type A were identified in remnant carrot juice in the bottle from which they drank.

On Monday, September 16, 2006, clinical samples yielded high concentrations of *botulinum* toxin type A in a patient hospitalized in Tampa, Florida. Officials of Hillsborough County Health Department and state authorities retrieved the bottle that contained carrot juice consumed by the patient before illness onset. On Friday, September 29, 2006, the National Botulism Reference Laboratory at CDC reported high levels of botulinum toxin in the remnant carrot juice.

The label on the bottle consumed by the Georgia patients stated: Bolthouse Farms 100% carrot juice 1 liter bottle Use by date: 09/18/06 Keep chilled 451700. Health authorities in Florida are investigating the purchase history of the contaminated juice. The Food and Drug Administration is investigating the manufacturer.

Any suspected botulism case should be questioned about exposure to carrot juice. Any suspected botulism case reported by a clinician to a state health department should be reported immediately by the state to CDC via the 24/7 CDC Botulism Clinical Consultation and Antitoxin Release Service, by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at (770) 488-7100 and asking for the botulism officer on-call.

For more information on botulism visit this CDC website:
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/botulism_g.htm

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of suspected botulism cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2006 List of Reportable Conditions available at: http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices

Call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

(Anderson, Oconee)
220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 231-1966
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)
P.O. Box 3227
1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

(Greenville, Pickens)
P.O. Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or
1-800-993-1186

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)
P.O. Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

(Chester, Lancaster, York)
P.O. Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29721
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)
2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2998
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

Region 4

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)
P.O. Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)
145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)
P.O. Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Region 5 (cont)

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)
1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)
2830 Oak Street
Conway, SC 29526-4560
Phone: (843) 365-3126, ext 138 or ext 174
Fax: (843) 365-3153
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 746-3806
Fax: (843) 746-3851
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)
219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-7603, ext 214
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology
1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.